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OUTLINE OF THE 1939 AAA FARM PROGRAM

The 1939 Agricultural Conservation Program is almost the same as the 1938 program. Changes recommended by committeemen who participated in a national conference have for the most part been put into the new program. These changes will strengthen the soil-building and conservation phases of the program. The following features are continued:

1. Individual soil-depleting acreage allotments for tobacco, cotton, wheat, and peanuts, and for potatoes and corn in designated commercial areas. These allotments represent each farmer's fair share in the national production of these crops. Except in the case of wheat, 1939 acreage allotments will for most farms not be greatly different from the 1938 allotments.
2. Soil building goals similar to those established in 1938 to conserve soil productivity and improve farm land.
3. Payments for keeping within the crop allotments, as well as for attaining the soil-building goals by carrying out soil-building practices. It is assumed that Congress will provide funds for payments in 1939 in about the same amounts as in 1938. The payments to farmers receiving under \$200 again will be increased. The rate per bushel of the wheat payment on commercial wheat farms will be higher due to the large adjustment necessary in the wheat acreage allotment this year. The funds available for cotton are less and the rate per pound of lint cotton will necessarily be lower. The rate for potatoes also will be lower. The potato rate for 1938 was higher than would result from the formula because of specific action by Congress effective only for 1938. Other payments under the conservation program are not expected to be greatly different. No payment can be made to the operator of a farm who has knowingly over-planted his cotton acreage allotment.
4. Deductions from maximum payments for partial performance about the same. However, deduction will be made in 1939 on commercial wheat farms for exceeding the wheat acreage allotment and on non-commercial farms for exceeding the usual acreage, or eight acres, whichever is the larger.
5. A price adjustment payment for cotton will again be available and a price adjustment payment will be made for wheat and corn and for types of tobacco for which prices are not above the parity level. Price adjustment payments will be made only to those who do not over-plant their acreage allotment for the crop.

6. Triple superphosphate will be made available, as will lining materials and winter legume seeds in cases where acceptable bids are obtained and the furnishing of material is needed to encourage soil-building practices.

The essential features of the program being substantially the same as in the previous program will enable farmers to have a better understanding of the provisions of the program and to achieve fuller performance than in past years.

The establishment of acreage allotments for commercial vegetables is being considered for 1939 as recommended by a committee representing commercial vegetable growers. If such allotments should be established, the part of the payment based upon vegetables would be earned by keeping within these allotments which would on most farms be the average of the 1936-37 commercial vegetable acreage on the farm.

Only a few changes have been made in the classification of crops. Most important are those in the classification of small grains. On commercial wheat farms performance will be checked this fall and all wheat seeded will be considered as wheat, except when the seeding is a mixture containing less than 50 percent of wheat, or containing 25 percent or more of rye, barley, Austrian winter peas, or vetch. On non-commercial wheat farms the acreage considered as wheat will be that acreage which is harvested for grain or hay, except that a mixture of winter legumes and wheat will not be soil-depleting nor will wheat used as a nurse crop for biennial and perennial legumes or perennial grasses if the wheat is cut green for hay.

Oats, barley, rye, or mixtures of these crops will not be classified as soil-depleting when such crops are used as nurse crops for legumes or perennial grasses of which a good stand is established in 1939 and the nurse crop is cut green for hay. These crops can also be grown in a mixture with winter legumes and can be pastured or used as cover crops the same as in 1938. Home vegetable gardens will be excluded from the soil-depleting classification.

To give farmers more time in which to make necessary adjustments and to carry out soil-building practices, they will receive notice of their allotments and goals earlier than last year. Wheat allotments have already been announced and other allotments will be determined and made available as soon as possible.

The program helps to maintain the farmer's income when it operates to stabilize market supplies of farm products at levels that will maintain fair prices to farmers. It provides payment to supplement the incomes of farmers who cooperate in balancing acreage. It also provides payments to help farmers pay the cost of shifting excess acreage of soil-depleting crops to soil-conserving crops and carrying out soil-building practices.